

EDMONTON BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

EDMONTON, N. W. T., MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1881.

No. 17.

NO TELEGRAMS.

As the telegraph line is down, and has been for the past week, near the Narrows of Lake Manitoba, we are without our usual telegrams. Doubtless this is the result of the recent warm weather. Last summer that part of the line was down almost continuously, and in all probability the same state of affairs will exist this summer. It can scarcely be said to be the fault of the contractor, as it is not within the bounds of possibility to keep a line working satisfactorily in such a swampy region of country. The perversity of the Government which caused the line to be built there is only equalled by the indifference or penuriousness of the Government that will allow the cost of the whole line to become a dead loss for the sake of saving the outlay necessary to construct the eastern portion of it through a more practicable country. It is a crying shame that a line which cost so many thousands of the people's money to build, and so many more thousands to nominally keep in repair, should be useless during the greater part of the year, and that during the remaining part a tariff so high as to prevent anything but the most urgent business being transacted over it should be allowed to prevail. It is to be hoped that when the Government takes it over next July, this line which was built with the people's money will be run for the people's benefit.

The following are the Montreal prices of fur this winter:—Beaver per lb. \$2 to \$2.50, mink \$1 to \$1.25, martin 75 cts. to \$1, bear \$7 to \$8, winter rats 8 cts. to 10 cts., lynx \$1 to \$1.50, fisher \$5 to \$7, otter \$8 to \$10.

The "Globe" of February 4th says it is rumored that the Hudson's Bay Company is interested in the Syndicate, and that a New York Syndicate has offered \$5,000,000 to the St. Paul Syndicate for their bargain.

The Manitoba Land Office, wherever or whatever that is, expects to send 40,000 emigrants to Manitoba and the North West during the coming season. Hope so—if they are of a good kind.

Telegraphic messages from Winnipeg to Thunder Bay, 400 miles, cost 25 cents for ten words. Between Winnipeg and Edmonton 800 miles the rate is \$2 for ten words.

A Manitoba company wants to build a railroad from Winnipeg to Pembina, with a branch from Morris to the Mennonite reserve.

The total number of signatures on anti-Syndicate petitions presented to Parliament so far amounts to 27,449.

Flour is \$2 a hundred at Battleford.

LOCAL.

ROADS bad.

WEATHER still mild.

FISH are not in market now.

POTATOES are selling rapidly at 75 cents a bushel.

AN inch of snow fell on Saturday, and went away on Sunday.

BARLEY flour costs the Indian Department here \$6 per hundred.

A GOOD many logs and rails are stuck in the woods for this season.

CARLIN & LAKE and Ed McPherson sold their fur to the H.B.C. on Saturday last.

THE Indian Department here bought five tons of bran during March, at \$30 a ton.

MR. RABISCA, of Saddle Lake, arrived on Wednesday, and left for home yesterday.

NORRIS & LOGAN have bought 600 bushels of wheat from Villiers & Pearson at \$2 a bushel.

A WILD GOOSE was seen near Mr. Borwick's on Thursday last, and another on Saturday.

THE ice on the river is very rotten, and in many places is completely covered with water.

JOHN ASHEN started for Peace Hills on Wednesday last with flour for the Indian Department.

COLLINS & ANNAND are drifting for gold on Clover Bar now. Gowler is still at Rat Creek Bar.

JOE MACDONALD will take Mr. J. W. Fisher's fur to Fort Ellice at four and a half cents a pound.

BROWN & CURRIE are paying Manitoba freighters nine cents a pound from Ellice to Edmonton.

MR. M. Groat left for Riviere Qui Barre with flour and bacon for the Indian Department on Tuesday.

THE roads between Victoria and Saddle Lake are completely bare of snow, the fall not having been nearly so heavy as in this vicinity.

THE mail from the East had not reached Battleford on Saturday night. The mail going East from here had not arrived at Battleford up to the same time.

THE first log, twelve feet long, of one of the spruce trees cut by J. Majeau, while lumbering up the river this winter, contains 400 feet of lumber. A good sized twig.

LECTAB BELLEROSE started his train of sleds to Victoria on Monday with 5,900 lbs. of flour for the Indian Department. This finishes that portion of Cust's flour contract.

THE steamer Lily has been supplied with a new plank bottom, laid over the iron. The thickness varies from two to three inches, and is of tamarac and pine, sawn at Moore's mill, Prince Albert. In addition to this she is to be supplied with an extension of her cabin. The alterations in the hull will not change her shape materially, but may add to her draught.

LOCAL.

ROADS mostly bare.

FINE weather all week.

THRESHING is finished at last.

THE epizootic here is in a very mild form.

SLIGHT rain on Sunday. First of the season.

SMITH has sawed 104 thousand shingles, up to date.

THE bad sleighing has put a stop to the further hauling of saw logs.

MR. R. LOGAN has finished putting in his 300 saw logs to the new mill.

THE pay of the Police at Ft. Saskatchewan is nearly three months in arrears.

MORNING and evening service in the Methodist church here last Sunday.

MR. F. LAMOREAUX has finished threshing at the Fort Saskatchewan Settlement.

REV. J. D. McLACHLAN and Mr. E. B. Glass arrived here from Victoria on Saturday evening.

HIGHEST temperature for the past week was 45 above zero on Saturday, and the lowest 4 above on Monday.

COL. STEWART got back from Lac la Biche on Friday. He reports great destitution amongst the Indians there.

A SMALL poplar tree at Mr. Henderson's place, near the Little Mountain, is in leaf, and in some other places the poplar buds are beginning to burst.

COL. STEWART brought a plug of tobacco with him from Lac la Biche, grown and manufactured there. The tobacco is good, but strong, and was not pressed quite enough.

LAST week one of Lectab Bellerose's oxen, while at the mill with a load of barley for W. Cust, ate so much of the grain that he laid down in his tracks. The teamsters, in hauling him off the track, broke his back and one leg, so that he had to be slaughtered.

NOTICE—All parties indebted to the undersigned are requested to settle up by the 30th of March, at furthest.

FRANK OLIVER.

BEEF & FLOUR

In unlimited quantities, and at lowest prices at the MARKET HOUSE, formerly known as the School House, second door north of the Methodist Church.

D. M. McDUGALL.

EDMONTON HOTEL & FEED STABLES.

Established 1876.

The pioneer house of accommodation this side of Portage la Prairie. A good game of

BILLIARDS OR POOL

Can be played, and a very social evening can be spent in the Billiard Room.

DONALD ROSS, Proprietor.

J. KNOWLES, Practical Miller and Millwright Plans and Specifications for any kind of machinery made on application. Orders solicited. Address, Edmonton Mills.

COOK STOVE FOR SALE—No. 9, furniture complete, only in use four months. Price \$60.

FRANK OLIVER.

NOTICE—The partnership known as McLeod, Norris & Belcher has been dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be carried on by Norris & Co., who will settle all accounts against the firm, and to whom all debts must be paid.

J. KNOWLES, Manager.

C. W. SUTTER—Gentlemen's Outfitter and Clothier—A Large Assortment of Ready Made Clothing, Boots, Shoes and Fancy Goods. Ready Made Clothing fitted without extra charge. Market House, first door East of Mission.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY.

Farmers of Edmonton remember we have the largest and best assortment of agricultural implements and machinery, our own manufacture, ever offered for sale in Manitoba or the North West. Self Binding Harvesters for both cord and wire, can use either on same machine. New Brantford Reaper, weighs only 750 lbs., the simplest and strongest ever offered for sale. The new Brantford Mower weighs only 550 lbs. A perfect little beauty. Seeders, Rakes, all kinds Plows, Iron and Wood Harrows, Little Champion Thresher, light and easily transported, Minnesota Chief Thresher, etc., etc. Send for illustrated catalogue. Orders by mail promptly attended to. Correspondence solicited.

A. HARRIS, SON & CO, Winnipeg.

Factory at Brantford, Ontario.

LIME! LIME! LIME!

500 bushels of first class lime for sale at George Rath's, at \$1 a bushel.

NORRIS & LOGAN, DEER LODGE, BIG LAKE ROAD,

Wholesale and retail dealers in Dry Goods, Ready Made Clothing, Hardware, Groceries, Provisions, Feed &c.

The highest price paid for FUR.

All persons indebted to the above Firm are requested to call and settle their accounts without any further delay.

CARLIN & LAKE, BIG LAKE ROAD.

Dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Ready Made Clothing, &c. A large and varied Stock at bottom prices. Call before purchasing elsewhere.

Ten Iron Bound Carts for Sale.

Neither is it reasonable to suppose that if the police are taken from parts of the country where their services are required and collected at headquarters, their pay cut down to a scanty living, and the whole expenditure on the force figured with regard to economy instead of efficiency, that the law can be enforced here as it has been ever since the police first came. Unless the individual members of the force are allowed almost unlimited powers, it is impossible to suppress the trade, and unless good pay is given, men fit to be trusted with such power can not be procured. To reduce the force to the footing of mere soldiers is to destroy its usefulness and throw away whatever money would be spent on it. No measures could be taken, short of the abolition of both the prohibitory law and the police force, more favorable to the re-introduction of the whiskey trade and the carnival of crime that would naturally follow it.

LOCAL.

OATS are scarce at \$1 25 a bushel.

DUCKS were shot at Lac la Nonne over a week ago.

MR. J. A. McDougall has leased his Big Lake Road farm to Messrs. Henderson & Stewart.

VILLIERS & PEARSON are paying seven and a half cents a pound freight, from Fort Ellice to this place.

NORRIS & LOGAN sold their fur to the value of \$9,000 to Mr. J. W. Fisher, of Winnipeg, on the 19th.

THE H.B.C. started a gang of men at work last Wednesday, to get their saw and grist mill into running order.

A PUBLIC day school has been started in the Roman Catholic chapel on the Big Lake Road. Opposition is the life of trade.

ON Monday last the planing machine for Norris & Co's mill arrived per ox sleigh from Victoria, where it was left by the steamer last summer.

A BUCKING horse was a source of much amusement on the main road near McLeod's last Thursday. The rider sat the horse until from sheer exhaustion he was forced to dismount.

ON Thursday last a slight explosion of fire-damp occurred in the Ross coal mine. It frightened the miners so badly that they started for daylight. An importation of safety lamps will soon be necessary.

AN informal examination of the body of John Coutts, who died so suddenly on the night of Saturday the 19th inst., was held on Monday last by Dr. Verrey and Capt. Gagnon, who came to the conclusion that he died of apoplexy. A coroner's inquest was not considered necessary. The deceased was well known in this part of the country, having come here a number of years ago in the H.B.C. service. For several years past he has freighted on his own account in different parts of the country. He was unmarried, and was a native of the Orkney Islands. The funeral took place on Tuesday at the Methodist Church burying ground. Mr. Hardisty read the burial service of the Church of England at the grave.

On the 16th inst., Chiefs Alexis, of White Lake, and Michael Cadehouis, of Lac Ste. Anne, met at the Riviere Qui Barre farm, and held a council. Michael said he was sorry Mr. McHugh was about to depart from amongst them, as he always dealt fairly by the Indian. While expressing every confidence in Mr. O'Donnell, the new instructor, he regretted the change. Alexis spoke in the same strain, and after the pipe was smoked the council adjourned.

THE H.B.C. MILLS.

These mills are being fitted up for work during the coming season, and are situated on the flat immediately above the Fort. The machinery arrived by steamer last summer, and is from the Caledonian Works, Montreal. The engine is forty horse power with locomotive boiler, and will operate both the sawing and grinding machinery. The engine house is 18 x 32, one story high, and the engine bed is of heavy tamarac.

The saw mill building is 47 x 32, two stories high, and will contain on the upper floor a fifty four inch circular saw, with butting saw and edger, and on the lower floor, planing, lath, and shingle machines. The latter have not arrived yet, but are expected by the first or second boat. The sawing capacity is about 18,000 feet of lumber in ten hours.

The grist mill is 30 x 40, two and a half stories high, and will contain two run of 36 inch under run stones, a smutter and scourer, a wheat bolt eighteen feet long, and a barley bolt of the same size. The grinding capacity will be about ten bushels per hour to each run of stones.

The frames of the buildings were put up and the roofs shingled last summer, and every effort will be put forth to have the saw mill running by the 1st of May. About 200,000 feet of logs, board measure, are lying at the mill now ready for sawing, and half a million feet have been taken out this winter up the river, which will be brought down as soon as the ice breaks and the water rises sufficiently. Being in the settlement furthest up the river, this mill will be able to supply the lumber market all along the Saskatchewan.

The grist mill will be ready for work on the next crop, and will do grinding for the public, but will be run principally to supply flour to the H.B.C. posts in the Peace River and northern districts as far as the Arctic Ocean. With plenty of mills and better crops, it is to be hoped that the time is not distant when the immense quantity of flour used in the Bow River country, and at present brought in from the States, will be supplied from Edmonton. This place, which a few years ago was the hungriest, poorest, and most backward locality in the Territories, and imported every pound of flour used in it from either Winnipeg or Benton, now raises enough to supply its own wants, and bids fair to become the grainery of the country, and being at the point where the trail from south to north crosses the Saskatchewan, its shipping facilities are not equalled in the North West.

THE BULLETIN

Will be published at Edmonton every Monday morning, from the 1st of December until the 1st of May. Subscription for the season \$2.00. Season advertisements, \$5.00 per inch. No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar. Business cards, not over four lines \$2.50. Mr. F. Wilson, at the H.B.C. store, Edmonton, and Mr. P. H. Belcher, at Fort Saskatchewan, will take subscriptions and advertisements. TAYLOR & OLIVER, Proprietors.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, MARCH 28, 1881.

WHISKEY.

In the Bill for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba it is provided that the liquor law at present in force in that part of the North West which will be included in the Province will continue in force, to be altered at pleasure of the Dominion Government. This provision is no doubt intended to allay the opposition of the settlers to the scheme, as the prospective introduction of liquor was the principal objection they raised against it.

There is no doubt that the prohibitory liquor law, as administered up to the present, has been a great success. In no country in the world did whiskey form a greater portion of the whole trade, in no country were the evil effects resulting from that trade greater, in no country were there more powerful interests or stronger prejudices to be united in its support, and in no country could the enforcing of the law be attended with greater difficulty than in this region of illimitable distances and sparse population. The state of the country only a few years ago, when the whiskey trade was in full blast was so deplorable, so utterly different from its present condition, as to almost pass belief. Whiskey was the great staple article of trade, both of the Hudson's Bay Company and the free traders in this district, and the horses and fur of the Indians and the gold of the miners went to purchase it. A man's life was worth a horse, and a horse was worth a pint of whiskey. Tales are told of strange scenes around Edmonton, where all is so quiet now. Of bands of Blackfeet a thousand strong, with countless buffalo robes and hundreds of horses, howling drunk, crowding around a hole in the wall of the fort, where the whiskey was handed out and the robes were taken in, and who would not leave until the last robe was traded. Of horses being bought for whiskey by men in the bastions, standing beside loaded cannon, from Indians outside, and the bullets now in the bastion walls hint of strong reasons for the trade being

conducted in that way. Of men shot, scalped, dismembered, and cut to pieces in a drunken row within a hundred yards of the wall. Of murders and massacres of men, women, and children, with the most revolting details, in full view of the people of the Fort.

But the Indians were not the only class affected. Although more gold was taken out of the river than now, although the population was nearly as large, and the inducements to settle better than at present, not a furrow was turned, a grain sown, or a house built in this settlement. Everything was at a standstill. Life and property were insecure. A few were making money, but the great majority were living from hand to mouth, and some were leaving the country as fast as others were coming in. When the whiskey traders from the states came into the Belly River country a great part of that trade was taken from this place, and a part of the attendant lawlessness was taken also, and when the Company finally stopped selling liquor here affairs began to improve. A few farms were taken up, and people began to think of making their homes here, but it was not until the arrival of the police, and the total prohibition of liquor that the country began to go ahead. Now, there is not a more prosperous settlement in the Dominion than Edmonton, and in no part of the world is life and property safer than in the North West, nor where there is less law breaking in proportion to the population.

Considering the good effects that have followed the prohibition of liquor in this country, it is no wonder that the people should wish to have the law continued in force. But like good effects do not necessarily follow the passing of such a law. Liquor is prohibited in Keewatin and all along the line of the C.P.R. from Red River to Thunder Bay, but at Rat Portage, the principal place on the line, whisky is nearly as plentiful, and crime as prevalent, as they ever were at Edmonton or Whoop-up. The reason that the law which is doing so much for this country, has no effect there, is because, while here it is enforced there it is not. When the Government decided that the whiskey trade in the North West should be stopped, they enlisted a body of picked men, fed, clothed, paid, mounted, and armed them well, stationed them at different points throughout the Territories, and gave them absolute power as far as that trade was concerned. Resistance was impossible and evasion nearly so, and the traffic was suppressed with scarcely an effort. Were the Government to take the same measures along the line of the C.P.R., neither the whiskey trade nor the crime resulting from it would exist to disgrace the country.

If the law in this new part of Manitoba is not backed by stronger force than the same law in Keewatin it will soon become a dead letter. It is folly to think that a liquor law can be rigidly enforced by neighbor against neighbor, or by a few scattered policemen, who are looked upon by the people merely as informers, and whose hands are tied by conflicting regulations or corrupt magistrates.